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3. (Amended) A prefilter as claimed in claim 1, wherein the inlet of each of said passages of the lower filter unit is located on the lower end side of the respective lamellar structures and the outlet is located on the upper end side of the respective lamellar structures, whereby the flow of liquid in the passages is ascendant in the lower filter unit.

4. (Amended) A prefilter as claimed in claim 2, wherein each of said lamellar structures in the form of hollow truncated structures has an outer peripheral edge and an inner edge smaller than the outer peripheral edge, the outer peripheral edge being the lower end side of the lamellar structure and the inner edge being the upper end side of the lamellar structure, whereby the liquid enters the passage between two truncated structures in the lower filter unit from the outer peripheral edge thereof and flows upwardly towards the inner edge thereof.

8. (Amended) A prefilter as claimed in claim 2, wherein each of said two lamellar structures includes an upper lamellar structure and a lower lamellar structure, and the filtering means in each of said passages comprises:

- an overflow dam wall extending upright from said lower lamellar structure and having a top edge spaced apart from an underside surface of the upper lamellar structure; and

- a linear interstice between the top edge of the dam wall and the underside surface of the upper lamellar structure.

7. (Amended) A prefilter as claimed in claim 6, wherein the overflow dam wall in each of said passages follows a sinuous path.

8. (Amended) A prefilter as claimed in claim 7, wherein the continuous dam wall in each of said passages has a top edge with a corrugated relief.

9. (Amended) A prefilter as claimed in claim 6, wherein the overflow dam wall in each of said passages comprises a plurality of vertical slots to further filter the liquid.

10. (Amended) A prefilter as claimed in claim 4, comprising linking means for linking the lamellar structures one to another in superposition.

11. (Amended) A prefilter as claimed in claim 10, wherein the linking means comprises:

- a plurality of tabs extending vertically from the inner edge of each truncated structure; and

- a plurality of tab receiving elements in the inner edge of the truncated structure, each tab receiving element being shaped for interconnection with a tab of another truncated cone.

12. (Amended) A prefilter as claimed in claim 11, wherein each of said tabs has an end in the form of a hook and each of said tab receiving elements is in the form of a vertical groove into which a tab of another truncated structure is slidably insertable.

13. (Amended) A prefilter as claimed in claim 24, wherein said hollow truncated structures are hollow truncated cones.

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18. (Amended) A prefilter as claimed in claim 24, wherein the filter housing has a top end and a bottom end, the inlet of the filter housing being an opening in the bottom end thereof, and the combination further comprises:

- an inlet chamber extending at said bottom end of the filter housing, the inlet chamber being in fluid communication with the reception chamber of the filter housing via an outlet of the inlet chamber hermetically connected to the inlet of the filter housing, the inlet chamber having a sidewall provided with a plurality of slots sized and shaped for receiving and prefiltering liquid to be filtered, whereby the liquid to be filtered enters

the inlet chamber via the slots thereof and then flows across the inlet chamber and upwardly in the reception chamber of the filter housing.

20. (Amended) A prefilter as claimed in claim 24, comprising a cover adapted to hermetically fit on the top end of the filter housing.

21. (Amended) A prefilter as claimed in claim 20, wherein the mounting means comprised a hanger mounted in the cover, the hanger having a lower portion for extending downwardly in the filter housing and brackets at said lower portion connectable to an uppermost truncated cone for suspending the upper and lower filter unit in the filter housing.

22. (Amended) A prefilter as claimed in claim 21, wherein the means for hermetically separating the reception chamber of the lower filter unit and the discharge chamber of the upper filter unit comprises:

a restriction in the side wall of the filter housing separating the bottom portion and the top portion thereof, and

a watertight liner mounted at said restriction.